

Scandinavian News



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APRIL 1987



Alberta Winter Sport CHAMPIONSHIP

CULTURAL EVENTS
CARNIVAL PROGRAM

1987

By Linnea Lodge

In 1981, when Calgary was named host of the 1988 Winter Olympics, three sports were scarcely active and two were not active at all in this province.

The Alberta Sports Council, recognizing these deficiencies, instituted new programs which would involve Albertans in the Winter Olympic sports. The 1984 Alberta Winter Games were held in the Crowsnest Pass and this became the beginning of the "88 Olympic Search." On March 8, 1985, 650 athletes from all parts of the province met in Calgary to compete in the Winter Sport Festival with competition in nine Olympic sports.

February 27, 1987, Edmonton became host to some 700 athletes competing in twelve events: alpine skiing, biathlon, bobsleigh, cross country skiing, curling, figure skating, freestyle skiing, hockey, luge, nordic combined, ski jumping and speed skating. Students range from 13 - 17 years and we are looking for participation at the 1992 Games and into the future.

Realizing that the various sports originated in various countries, Alberta Culture was asked to provide a cultural program surrounding the weekend activities which might reflect some of these aspects. Carnival was the theme, and over 30 of Edmonton's ethno-cultural communities took part. "Bonhomme Carnaval", the symbol of Quebec City's Winter Carnival was a special

guest and managed to visit all the venues and take part in all ceremonies.

The Opening Ceremonies and march-past of the athletes was staged at the Alberta Legislature Grounds. Torch-bearers were Michael Kennedy and Sharon Mooney who lit the Games Flame.

The Scandinavian influence was present at the Edmonton Ski Club on Saturday, February 28. Schola Cantorum Youth Choir conducted by Eva Bostrand from Alberta College opened the event. Lars G. Fahlstrom, Royal Consul of Sweden welcomed the athletes and spectators, followed by a group of skiers carrying flags down the slope. Dr. H.J. McLachlin, Chairman of the Championship, arrived in a pulks - a Nordic type sleigh - drawn by a real live Viking. The Valhalla Scandinavian Dancers and the Silver Spur Dancers completed the morning program.

During lunch hour a Viking and International Ski Wear Show was featured with participants skiing down the Twin Birch Hill. Some of the countries represented were Great Britain, Australia, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Norway, Denmark, Sweden and Finland. The Vikings were very visible, and some of the preschool children were unbelievable in the way they handled their skis on the down slopes.

In the afternoon when the "Bonhomme" arrived on the pulka drawn by a beautiful, large and friendly Newfoundland dog, the Danish Fastelavn tradition began. The "Bonhomme" was the first to attempt breaking the barrel. After many attempts by the children, the winners were finally crowned by the "Bonhomme". All the little people received several goodies when the barrel finally broke.

In recognition of the Edmonton Ski Club's 75th Anniversary a static display of ski equipment, photos, trophies and skis from as far back as 1880, was available for perusal during the day in the Ski Club. The Norwegian Consul, Arne Johannessen, received the Norwegian flag marking the fact that the Edmonton Ski Club was started by four Norwegians. It is also very interesting that the first

minutes were written in the Norwegian language for a least a year.

All day long the Scandinavian Food Kiosk offered mulled cider with Danish pastry from Calmar Bakery and oatmeal cookies from the Swedish Bakery at Wetaskiwin. Reports from other venues indicate that several cultural programs were in place. The Sportex, where the curling was in progress, saw Highland Dancers and the famous Edmonton Caledonia Pipe Band was heard. A mural of a Bonspiel from ancient times was part of a static display.

At the Victoria Speed Skating Oval, the Dutch Canadian Dancers and the Alberta Harmonicares presented their programs. The Dutch community also operated the Food Kiosk.

Fort Edmonton was the site

of the Cabane a Sucre, a French Canadian festival which is Quebec maple syrup boiled to a taffy stage and then poured over the hard snow.

At the Closing Ceremonies, the Minister of Culture, Dennis L. Anderson, announced the Zone winner which happened to be Zone 4 - central Albers - who will host the winter competition next year. After the Minister had declared the Games closed, the Games flag was presented to Glen Sundquist from the County of Strathcona, site of the Alberta Summer Games. Heidi and Howdy, mascots of the Calgary 88 Olympics were part of the march-past.

The sub-committee arranging the program at the Edmonton Ski Club met weekly for eight weeks and managed to develop a cultural program which might reflect Scandina-

vian flavour indicating the connection of skiing with those countries. Under the chairmanship of Tomas Jarosek and Lene Holgersen from EISA, MacKay House, the following were part of the planning as well as actively participating on that weekend - Lars G. Fahlstrom, Linnea Lodge, Pam Tovey, Judy van Es, Kris Nyhus and Jette Hansen. The staging of this event expresses the type of co-operation that exists amongst the six member groups of the Scandinavian Heritage Society, those being:

The Sons of Norway,
Solglyt Lodge No. 143
Vasa Order of America,
Skandia Lodge No. 549
The Finnish Society of
Edmonton
The Icelandic Society of
Edmonton
The Danish Society Dania

Continued on Page 4

Vera Nielsen Celebrates 85 Years!

On Christmas Eve, December 24th, 1986, Vera Nielsen was 85 years old. It was not a good time for a celebration, so on January 17, 1987 the family gathered to honor her.

The celebration was held at Morgans Restaurant where owner, Birthe Nielsen (no relation) and her staff served a beautiful "Danish" dinner. Jurgen Picard (a friend of one of the granddaughters from Calgary) supplied music for dancing. Vera's five children,

Elsie Duport from Sherwood Park, Betty Kjarsgaard from Edmonton, John Nielsen from Grande Prairie, Helen Stetson from Las Vegas & Dennis Nielsen from Red Deer were in attendance with their spouses. As well there were 10 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren coming from: Las Vegas, Calgary, Consort, Camrose, Tofield & Edmonton. One grandson from Quesnell, B.C., had booked his flight and was on the plane in Prince

George when he was "bumped" because of overbooking by the airline. He was not able to get another flight out. A granddaughter from Edmonton was attending a wedding in Winnipeg and so was not able to be with us. The youngest great-granddaughter at the party was just six weeks old. Later in the evening, coffee and a "Kransa Kage" were supplied by Birthe and her staff.

Congratulations to Vera!



Mrs. Vera Nielsen with her children, grandchildren, & great-grandchildren.

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First in Nation

Alberta becomes the first Canadian province to have a Department of Culture and Multiculturalism.

"The Department of Culture Amendment Act 1987 emphasizes this government's unparalleled commitment to the multicultural heritage of the people of Alberta. Much of the Province's quality of life comes from ethno-cultural groups sharing their knowledge and traditions," said Dennis Anderson, Minister of Culture.

Alberta is home to over 1,500 ethno-cultural organizations, representing people from more than 100 countries. "We value the Cultural Heritage of our citizens in further developing the social, cultural and economic potential of our province. Recognition of and respect for our Cultural Heritage is a significant feature of Canadian life, distinguishing Canadians from other nations," remarked Anderson.

The Culture Amendment Act was the

first to be introduced in the Spring Session by Premier Don Getty. "The first bill underlines the Government's commitment to fostering an environment for cultural heritage expression," explained Anderson.

Bill 1 marks this year's first major multicultural initiative. Alberta Culture actively promotes the province's ethno-cultural heritage by providing resources and services to community groups, organizations and individuals.

Solglyt
"Freeloaders"

On February 7th, Wally Broen and Harry Huser of the "Freeloaders" supplied the music for the installation of officers for Ronning Lodge, Camrose.

On the following day Wally and Harry, along with the Welsh choir, entertained the residents at Kiwaniis Place Lodge.

On March 11th, on the occasion of a Birthday Tea Party, the "Freeloaders" responded to a request from the residents of Dickensfield Extended Care Centre. Wally and Harry and Astrid represented the "Freeloaders"; guest musician (violin), Jack Miles who also sings with the Welsh Choir, joined them.

The "Freeloaders" helped McNally Composite School celebrate Multicultural Days February 16th-20th. At noon on Feb. 19th Wally Broen and Harry Huser represented the "Freeloaders" and Astrid Hope was there with a Norwegian ethnic display in one of the show windows. The pupils participated as much as possible in making and selling ethnic foods of their respective countries, wearing costumes and taking part in performances.

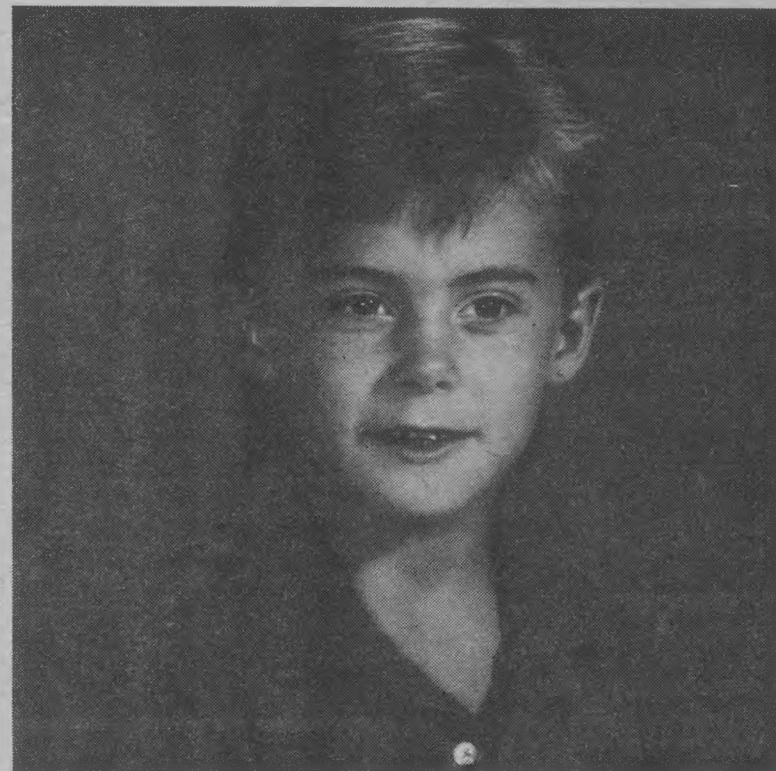
INTERNATIONAL
PRESIDENT'S
FIRST VISIT

The International President for Sons of Norway Mr. Bjarne Eikevik and his wife Ruth spent a couple of days in Edmonton recently, visiting with old friends Norman and Johanne Nilsen.

While in town they took in West Edmonton Mall and Hotel, the Convention Centre and the Citadel Theatre. "Impenetrable By", impressive city, was their comment.

The Eikeviks also had an opportunity to meet Alderman Terry Cavanagh and his wife June again, Dep. Minister Ken Broadfoot and his wife Pat, the Norwegian Consul, Arne Johannessen, and his wife Jofrid, the president of Solglyt Lodge, Mrs. Betty Broen, and members and friends of Sons of Norway.

Mr. & Mrs. Eikevik are both looking forward to coming back in 1990, when the District 4 Convention will be held in Edmonton.



Tyler Nilsen

Tyler Nilsen Takes the Gold!

Tyler Nilsen, age 8, received a beautiful trophy when he placed first in the Nancy Greene Ski Race held at Snow Valley.

The following week he did it again! He won the age 7-8 category in the Junior Olym-

pics sponsored by the Royal Bank at Marmot Basin.

His proud parents are Brian and Heather Nilsen, and his equally proud grandparents are Norman and Johanne Nilsen.

HERITAGE MUSEUM
IS THE GOAL

The Hardanger Fiddle Association of America would like a brief history of Hardanger Fiddles, players and/or owners of same. The purpose of this is to establish a heritage Museum of Scandinavian culture. Also, a snap of the violin and its owner would be appreciated. (The snap will be sent back if requested).

For further information contact:

The Hardanger Fiddle Association of America:
c/o CARL NARVESTAD (Director)
Granite Falls,
Minnesota, 56241
U.S.A.

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STANLEY HAFSO

Vasa Lodge Skandia No. 549

By Helen McEvoy

The first regular meeting of Skandia 549 for 1987 was on January 12th, when the new officers were installed as follows: Chairman - Doreen Nyroos, Vice-Chairman - Elwood Johnson, Recording Sec'y - Nadine Gillespie, Financial Sec'y - Charlotte Samuelson, Treasurer - Linnea Lodge, Chaplain - Gertie Duxbury, Outer Guard - Gord Johnson, Inner Guard - Hank Berkenbosch, Master of Ceremonies - Greg Johnson, Cultural Leader - Verna Larson.

All incumbents on the land committee will serve another term. Sonja Sund will stand as trustee, and the auditors are Erv Kurtz, Don Melin and Leona Anderson. Lunch and coffee will be the responsibility of Violet Watson and Shirley Sykes, with Evelyn Johnson as alternate. Rounding out the list are Sid Johnson, Bert Watson, Rossalyn Johnson and Gertie Duxbury on the sick and visiting committee.

At this meeting, Verna Larson, having spent three years as Cultural Leader, was presented with her membership pin for the Past Chairman's Club. She had with her some dolls in costume from Jamtland and Stockholm, and one in the Swedish National Costume, bringing to 20 the number in our collection.

Also at the meeting, Anna Sund was presented with a cake to honor her 80th birthday, and everyone sang "Happy Birthday". Anna has been a member of Skandia 549 for 50 years this year, and was thrilled to receive birthday greetings from Grand Master Carl Lindquist.

It was announced during the meeting that the cabin of Winnie and Oscar Pearson now belongs to Randy Pearson.

* * * * *

Lois and Greg Johnstone spent the two middle weeks of January in Las Vegas and Los Angeles on a combined business and pleasure trip. While they were away, Virgie and Milton Fawcett spent the time in Edmonton, looking after Grandson Brent.

* * * * *

In spite of our very mild and sunny winter, some of our members have enjoyed holidays in warmer spots.

Don and Delores Melin spent the first two weeks of February soaking up the sunshine in Hawaii.

Virgie and Milton Fawcett left on Feb 22nd for three weeks of the same.

Evelyn Johnson came back from Hawaii looking fit and tanned after spending the last week in January and first half of February in the islands.

* * * * *

Martha Kay tells us that Harold and Lulu Lundgren of Kamloops spent the months of January and February in Arizona.

Evelyn and William Modin left on Feb 15th for two weeks in Bermuda.

We also hear (via Harold Markstrom, after a chat with Oscar Pearson) that Winnie Pearson of Burnaby enjoyed a holiday in Arizona, guest of daughter Rita's in-laws, Lloyd and Margaret Brown.

* * * * *

Kay and Myron Kerr flew to Vancouver for a visit with friends on the week-end of January 23rd. They then spent a few days in Calgary the week of Feb 19th, where Myron was attending a Trustees Convention of the Good Samaritan Nursing Homes and Hospitals Association of Alberta.

* * * * *

Charlotte Samuelson enjoyed the company of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. Hornsby of White Rock, for two weeks over the Christmas season.

* * * * *

Five new members were initiated into Skandia 549 at the Feb 2nd meeting: Corinne Johnson, Janet Gregory, Curtis Banks, Lee Doty and Carol Vaagi. A big welcome to you all.

* * * * *

SCANDINAVIAN CENTRE CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

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7:00 p.m.

We were all sorry to hear that Irma McMaster fell on Feb 7th and was forced to spend some time in hospital recuperating. She had just had her cast removed that she had been wearing since the time of her first fall on December 2nd. Hope you stay on your feet, Irma.

* * * * *

The family of Clarence Knutson honored him with a brunch at the Mayfield Inn on the occasion of his 65th birthday on Feb 9th. Attending, besides wife Joan, were Tammy and Terry and Bot and Chris of Edmonton, Glen and Leslie of Calgary, and six grandchildren. Son Miles of

Part Perry, Ontario couldn't be here, but Clarence was happy with a phone call from Miles and family. He also received birthday greetings from Grand Master Carl Lindquist.

* * * * *

Linnea Lodge, Astrid Hope from the Norwegian Lodge and Anne Sahuri of the Finnish Society, attended a reception for the Honorable David Crombie, Secretary of State and the Minister responsible for Multiculturalism on January 15th. The occasion, held at the Italian Centre, was a reception for the Ethno Cultural Community.

* * * * *

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Sweden

SWEDEN TO OPEN FIVE BIG TOURIST CAMPS FOR SPORT FISHING

STOCKHOLM - Sports fishing is a popular hobby with Swedes and an estimated 2.5 million of the nation's 8.3 million inhabitants try their luck at least once a year along the coasts or in the tens of thousands of lakes and rivers dotted all over the countryside. In a bid to assist both seasoned veterans and potential amateurs - and not least to attract fishing enthusiasts from abroad - the Swedish Forest Service and the Swedish Tourist Board have joined forces to establish five well-equipped fishing and recreation centres over the next five years.

Under the project, dubbed KronFiske ("CrownFishing"), three camps will open during the spring of 1987: Risebo, in the northernmost part of Smaland province and Morrum/Harasjomala in the Blekinge province (both in southern Sweden), and Hoglekardalen in the Jamtland province, a mountainous north-Swedish region known for winter sports. In the spring of 1988, two further camps will open: Tiveden between Sweden's two biggest lakes, Vanern and Vattern, and Malingsbo/Kloten in the Bergslagen region.

The camps will be located in areas where fishing is known to be good and efforts will be made to satisfy most tastes, from quiet angling to fly-fishing in streaming water. Experts will be at hand for guidance and information and to supply equipment in the form of rods and reels, lures, lines, fishing boots and apparel.

Camping sites, cottages and other lodging facilities will be available to visitors at the centres as well as cafeterias and premises for social meetings with other fishing enthusiasts. Activities other than fishing will also be arranged, such as excursions and sightseeing in the surroundings areas. Special attractions will be organized for children while handicapped fishing enthusiasts will benefit from jetties equipped especially for them.

"Fishing at a KronFiske camp should be fun and easy, for both beginners and experienced fishermen", the Forest Service's subsidiary DomanTurist says. Experience gained from the five-year pilot project will be made available also to other organizers of sports fishing camps in Sweden.

8,000 RUNNERS COMPLETE VASALOPPET SKI MARATHON IN EXTREME COLD

STOCKHOLM - This year's Vasaloppet, the famous Swedish 90 km skiing marathon between Salen and Mora in the province of Dalarna, was won by 25-year-old Swedish runner Anders Larsson, clocking 4h 20m 20s, followed by Orjan Blomquist and Sven-Erik Danielsson, three and eight seconds behind. The best non-Swedish runners were Juha Mieto of Finland in sixth place (4h 22m 04s) and Paul Grunenfelder of Switzerland in eighth (4h 22m 13s).

Arranged for the 64th time, Vasaloppet was created in 1922 to commemorate King Gustav Vasa's near-mythical ski run between the two villages, although in the opposite direction, four hundred years earlier. Said to be the world's biggest winter sports event, it assembles both elite skiers and fitness enthusiasts of both sexes and all ages, including a number of septuagenarians.

Somewhat hampered by extreme cold this year, only 9,625 runners out of a total of 12,000 registered turned up at the Salen starting-line. The temperature was -29°C, dropping to -35° on frozen boglands. 8,310 runners completed the race, the last arriving being an elderly gentleman clocking 11h 45m 46s.

During the week preceding the race, several thousand skiers completed the distance in the unofficial "open track" event. One of them was King Carl Gustaf who clocked 7h 9m and outskied one of his security guards.

NEW SAFE AND ERGONOMIC AMBULANCE MODULE CAN OUTLIVE TWO OR MORE BASE VANS

STOCKHOLM - A new ambulance module designed to accommodate emergency equipment for patients rushed to hospital and at the same time being safe for the crew has been developed in Sweden by medical experts in cooperation with ambulance personnel, the Royal Institute of Technology and the manufacturer, Hejde-Ambulanser AB, Skarholmen, Stockholm. The System Alfa, the all-purpose ambulance, is the result of research and development work that started in 1979 to design an ambulance unit that could be moved from one van to another for better economy and provide an effective working environment for the crew.

The module can easily be converted for different types of use, from emergency treatment to routine transport. All the life-saving equipment is accessible even from the outside of the ambulance and may thus be used at the scene of an accident. The stretcher table can be lowered, raised and moved sideways for best possible reach during treatment. The equipment is stored low in pockets or in the ceiling of the unit. There is enough room inside for several crew members and doctors to work with the patient at the same time.

The module, which can be mounted on any van suitable for ambulance transport, is clad with an energy absorbing material and totally free from cupboards and other equipment with sharp edges. There are safety belts for personnel riding in the car. The ambulance is also equipped with a new type of stretcher which reduces the need for heavy lifts to a minimum.

Since the module is mounted inside a van and is expected to outlive two or more vehicles, it can easily be disengaged for removal.

The Alfa ambulance module has been purchased and is to be tested in use by three county councils already involved in the project.

GOVERNMENT APPLIES STRICTER RULES FOR USE OF FREON IN INDUSTRY

STOCKHOLM - For the first time in Sweden, a company has been compelled by the government to initiate work on developing freon-free products in order to obtain permission to commence manufacturing at a new plant. At the same time the company has pledged to stimulate such development also at its raw material suppliers.

The company, Gothenburg-based Powerpipe, is manufacturing culverts for district-heating systems and will have to report on its development activities before the end of 1987. By the same date, the company is also obliged to have installed purification equipment for freon and isocyanate.

By taking this decision, the government has introduced stricter rules for the use of freon and is actively promoting the development of freon-free products, according to the Environment and Energy Minister, Birgitta Dahl.

SWEDISH CRUISE CONTROLLER MAKES DRIVING MORE RELAXED

STOCKHOLM - A new cruise controller, designed to fit all their cars from the 1986 models onwards, has been introduced by Volvo, the Swedish car manufacturer. The device will make driving easier, increase road safety as speeding offences will become less frequent, and the even speeds will result in reduced exhaust fumes Volvo claims.

The cruise controller consists of a regulator, operated by a lever with a "Set-Speed" button on the steering-wheel. The regulator in turn operates a vacuum pump which affects a vacuum cylinder connected to the throttle lever. The system registers the speed level and modifies the pressure in the vacuum cylinder to keep it constant. After braking, the car will return to the set speed unless this has been altered. Minor constant speed changes can be made by pressing the Set-Speed button.

The risks of the car "running away" or ending up in a wheel-spin are eliminated by installing both mechanical and electric cut-out devices on the brake and clutch pedals. The cruise controller will also

cut out automatically when the accelerator or clutch is used, for example during overtaking. Protection against inverse currents in the car's electric system that could create problems is also ensured.

The cruise controller is easy to fit, but it should be done professionally for safety reasons, according to Volvo. Mounted, the system costs about Kr.2,500 (\$385).

STOCKHOLM CHIEF OF POLICE RESIGNS AFTER CONTROVERSY ON SEARCH FOR PALME'S MURDERER

STOCKHOLM - Hans Holmer, Stockholm Police Commissioner and controversial former leader of the search for Premier Minister Olof Palme's murderer, on March 5 handed in his resignation to Swedish government. Following government intervention on February 5, when the leadership of the search was upgraded from county to national level, Mr. Holmer has been member of a reference group providing advice and counsel to investigators. Prosecutor-General Magnus Sjöberg and National Police Commissioner Holger Romander are now heading the investigation.

Commenting on his decision, Mr. Holmer said he could no longer share responsibility for the search along the present lines, which he claimed would lead nowhere. Prosecutor-General Sjöberg, on the other hand, said that collaboration between prosecutors and police now functions smoothly.

Mr. Holmer's resignation came less than a week after the anniversary of Olof Palme's death on February 28, 1986. Ceremonies were held all over Sweden to honour Palme's memory.

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WINTER SPORT CHAMPIONSHIP Continued from Page 1

The Danish Canadian Friendship Club of Edmonton

The Alberta Sports Council is funded by monies from the Western Canada Lottery Corporation, but 36 different businesses and agencies were special friends of the Games which helped to make this Edmonton event a great success. Within the circle of 700 competitors and 400 volunteers many new friendships were made.

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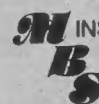
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Finnish Footnotes

THE FINNISH SOCIETY OF EDMONTON

By Anja Sahuri

Hard Times Dance

Well, it seemed that it really was hard times. People came dressed appropriately and everyone had a really good time. Dancing was to music provided by Christian Ahlskog and many people commented on the well-chosen music. Thank you, Christian. The food was delicious, as always. The decorating was done in the theme of hard times, with newspaper tablecloths and paper flowers (home-made of course) in empty bottle "design vases".

The theme of the evening was hard times, but the mood certainly was good time.

* * * * *

Some Winners: left to right - Pauli Vanhala, Dick Sahuri, John Sahuri, Christian Ahlskog, Jaako Thurlin.

Ski Competition

The annual ski-competition was held on Feb. 22nd, 1987 at Elk Island National Park. Many of us had waited for this event, wondering if we would have any snow left at that time. But it was like a miracle - it snowed the night before the ski-competition and we had one of the best turn-outs ever. About forty people came to either take part in the competition, or to watch and cheer others.

The winners were: **Men**, 1st - Dick Sahuri; 2nd - Paul Vanhala; 3rd - Christian Ahlskog. **Senior Men**, 1st - John Sahuri; 2nd - Jaako Thurlin. **Ladies**, 1st - Maria Leppanen; 2nd place was a tie between Judy VanEs and Anne Sahuri. **Children**, 1st - Petteri Viinikka; 2nd place was a tie between Saska Vanhala and Kris Viinikka; 3rd Kari Karsten. Many thanks to our hard work-

ing time-keeper, Pasi Karsten, for the work well done. Congratulations and best wishes to all winners. After the competition it was relaxing to share lunch with the tame chickadees who actually took the crumbs from one's hand. See you next year at the ski-event, keep your skis well waxed.

* * * * *

"Carnival" at Hawrelak Park

As part of the Alberta Winter Sports Championships, "Culture on Ice" was held at Hawrelak Park by Alberta Culture assisted by Edmonton Folk Arts Council.

It started with a parade on ice with "Bonhomme" in the lead (a special guest from the Quebec Winter Carnival). The parade consisted of

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Verner Steinbru with his Sparkstitting (Norwegian Kick sled)

Close up of Trolls, Viking & Norwegians



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SWEDEN

Continued

42% INCREASE IN MODERNIZATION PROJECTS IN APARTMENT BUILDINGS

STOCKHOLM - Flat modernization starts in apartment buildings in Sweden in 1986 totalled 31,212, an increase of 42% compared with 1985, according to preliminary statistics. At the same time, rebuilding projects were completed for 26,719 flats, up 15% compared with the preceding year.

CONSUMER PRICES UP 1.6% THIS YEAR

STOCKHOLM - Consumer prices in Sweden rose by 1.6% over the period January 1 - February 15, compared with 1.1% in the same period in 1986. Half of the increase this year, 0.8%, is attributable to higher indirect taxes and other dues for central and local government services. The inflation rate in February 15 was 4.1%, up from 3.9% at end-January.

SWEDISH POPULATION FORECAST SHOWS LITTLE CHANGE OVER NEXT 40 YEARS

STOCKHOLM - The increase in nativity registered in Sweden over the last few years is likely to remain into the 1990s, according to a new population forecast by Statistics Sweden for the period 1985-2025. On average, women will give birth to 1.8 children, but have them later in life, around 30 and older, the survey says. This category includes women who in the 1970s for various reasons put off child-bearing which resulted in exceptionally low nativity figures during that decade.

Average life expectancy in Sweden continues to rise. The current average for men, 73.8 years, is predicted to increase to 74.9 years by the end of the century, the corresponding

figures for women being 79.7 and 81.3 years, respectively.

Immigration to Sweden has changed in recent years, the demographic study says. Work-force immigration from countries outside the Nordic area has practically ceased and most immigrants from these countries are now refugees or close relatives of previous immigrants. Net immigration is expected to drop from 10,000 in 1986 to 7,500 by 1989.

Although the population has become proportionally older, the forecast shows that the present pensioner/child ration will, on the whole, remain unchanged until the beginning of the 21st century, although the number of people aged 80 or more will increase markedly.

During the 1960s, Sweden's population rose by over half a million people and in the '70s it increased by a quarter of a million. During the rest of the century there will be practically no increase, the 8.4-million population in 1985 rising to 8.5 million by the year 2000 and declining to 8.4 million by the year 2025.

SOCIALISTS LEAD IN TWO PARTY PREFERENCE POLLS

STOCKHOLM - Two public opinion polls in February indicate a lead for the socialist bloc in Sweden (Social Democrats and Communists), a slight combined decline for the non-socialists (Conservatives, Liberals and the Centre Party) compared with previous party preference polls and a significant increase for the Environment Party.

The monthly SIFO poll shows 45.1% preference for the Social Democrats with the IMU poll trailing somewhat behind with 43.0%, the figure for the communists being 4.5% in both polls. The SIFO figure for the non-socialist bloc is a combined 46.3% and IMU's 46.5%. Both register a decline for the Conser-

vatives, a gain for the Centre party and a largely unchanged figure for the Liberals. The environmentalists are up from 3.0% to 3.9% in the SIFO poll and from 4.0% to 5.5% in the IMU poll.

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION DESIGNED TO ATTRACT FOREIGN STUDENTS TO SWEDEN

STOCKHOLM - Some twelve different master's degree courses could be offered in Sweden at the beginning of the academic year 1988/89, as part of a planned "Swedish International University Programme", according to Professor Harold Lawson, acting as consultant to the National Board of Universities and Colleges (UHA).

The courses would be held in English and last 1.5 - 2 years. Students should hold a bachelor's degree or the equivalent for entry. The international master's degree courses would be correlated to existing Swedish courses at the same establishments. They are intended to be self-financing and paid for by the countries sending students.

Some colleges and universities in Sweden have already commenced similar schemes on their own, but a joint organization would facilitate marketing abroad, Professor Lawson says. UHA is therefore sending out a circular to all concerned in Sweden to offer participation in the proposed programme. In the future, Sweden should be able to accept up to 2,000 students in 50 specialities.

With improved international higher-education facilities, Sweden could attract more foreign students, including those from developing countries that must go abroad for their education, says Professor Lawson, adding he hoped that Swedish industry would participate in the scheme with grants and scholarships.

Norway

"DEATH SHIPS" OFF NORWAY'S COAST WILL BE CHARTED

The German cruiser "Leipzig", and at least 27 other German warships, which were filled with poisonous gas (war agent) and sunk off the Norwegian coast after World War II, will now be charted and kept under observation by the Norwegian authorities. Press spokesman Erik Senstad in the Ministry of Defence says that the Norwegian Defence Research Establishment has decided on these measures to ensure that the wrecks and any possible gas leaks do not damage fishing tackles, fish, or the marine environment.

Approximately 179,000 tons of poisonous gas were dumped by the Germans. Some of the poison canisters were dumped individually, but most were enclosed in concrete and loaded aboard marine vessels which were scuttled in deep waters in the North Sea. These potentially lethal "death ships" were scheduled to be removed by a British/US unit.

Danish fishermen operating near the island of Bornholm, have for several years been discovering gelatinous mustard gas in their nets. This probably originates from the canisters which were discarded individually. The Norwegian authorities regard the danger of gas leakage as slight, though not unthinkable. But in view of the environmental vulnerability of the North Sea, scientists are uneasy that the canisters may start to rust. It is for this reason that the authorities now wish to plot the position of the wrecks and to implement a limited form of monitoring through taking regular samples of the water around the wrecks.

NORWEGIANS STILL HEAD FOR THE SUN

Norwegians are heading south in greater numbers than ever before. Fresh statistics from the Civil Aviation Administration show that charter traffic to overseas destinations rose 13.4% during the first 11 months of 1986.

Spain still remains a firm favourite with Norwegian holidaymakers travelling abroad. The 24% increase in charter tourism brought the total number of Norwegian visitors up to 335,000, 64,900 more than in 1985. The second favourite destination for sun-hungry Norwegians is Greece and the islands of the Aegean Sea. Up to December 1st last year 127,000 Norwegian charter tourists had visited the region, a 6.8% rise on 1985.

The biggest charter traffic increase, 43.1%, was to the island of Cyprus which has ousted Great Britain from

third place on the ranking list of the most popular destinations for Norwegians charter tourists, though there was a small increase in charter traffic to Britain too.

CALL FOR COOPERATION TO STRENGTHEN NORWAY'S ECONOMY

"An economic state of emergency", was how Norwegian PM Gro Harlem Brundtland characterized the country's situation when she last week met with workers organizations to present a 7-point plan to buttress Norway's weakened economy.

The main aim of the plan is to find ways of ensuring a moderate settlement at the spring wage talks. The government has defined a 6.5% annual wage growth as the basis for a "mini" settlement this spring. If this can be achieved then Norway's competitive ability can be raised to a par with that of competing countries by 1988, the PM said. Inflation this year is estimated at 8.5%, with a falling tendency towards year's end.

The 7-point rescue plan included measures to bring housing loans within easier reach of young people and, in the longer term, the formulation of tax policies which can have a favourable effect on the distribution of wealth. The authorities will also look into possibilities for steering money, credit and currency exchange policies.

The government's 6.5% ceiling for average wage growth leaves little room for increases when the transferred effect of last year's increases is deducted. Most wage-earners must accept a drop in purchasing power if the worker organizations opt to go along with the government's wishes. The largest of the worker groups, the Norwegian Federation of Trade Unions (LO) is reportedly willing to accept a so-called zero settlement this spring. The condition is that all other groups show the same restraint.

LO's cooperation is unlikely to extend to a full incomes policy agreement with the Labour government as it wishes to preserve its integrity as an independent trade union body with free negotiating rights. Two other unions have also indicated willingness to cooperate. The amalgamation of offshore employees - a sector accounting for 20% of the income in the national budget - has expressed a wish to play its part, and the civil service division of the Confederation of Vactional Unions (YS) says it will not demand full compensation for inflation.

Minister of Finance, Gunnar Berge said at the meeting that a moderate



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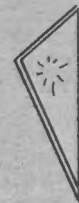
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wage settlement is the best contribution towards redressing the balance of costs and prices. He added the clear admonition that if the worker organizations are unwilling to cooperate to achieve this, other and more comprehensive measures might have to be adopted.

Developments after the meeting may help to make such measures unnecessary. The Central Bank announced two days later that it will reduce the money market interest rate by 0.3%, bringing it down to 14.5%. This was made possible by the relatively stable krone exchange rate in recent weeks, which made it unnecessary to buy up krone in order to uphold the exchange rate. With the money market interest rate now standing only fractionally higher than it did before the banks raised loan interest in response to a 2% rise in this rate, the public is now looking to the banks to reduce loan interest again. Should they do so, a moderate wage settlement this spring would be easier to achieve. So far, the three main banks have shown no sign that they will cut interest rates. They describe the Central Bank's move as a positive one, but not enough to warrant a reduction of interest on loans.

NORWAY ON THRESHOLD OF GAS-POWER AGE?

The Norwegian authorities are assessing the potential for gas-power plants. These could render other power development schemes superfluous, at least up to the turn of the century.

Gas power schemes are closest to being realized at Karsto, on the west coast, where the state power company Statkraft is accelerating plans so that it can start construction work on Norway's first gas power plant before the summer of 1988. It is working in conjunction with state oil company Statoil, which takes care of the sale of all Norwegian gas.

Further north, on the Haltenbanken, the impending development of the Heidrun and Draugen fields will involve making use of 2 thousand million m³ of gas per year. Converted into electricity this would constitute 10% to 12% of the total Norwegian power production, which now stands at 100 TWh per year. Heidrun and Draugen are due on stream in the early 1990s, and finding the best use for the gas is an issue which must be solved soon. Another problem waiting for an answer is whether to generate the power offshore or on land. The latter would entail building a pipeline which should preferably be sufficient to take the gas from other fields on the Haltenbak too. What type of line to construct, and who is to own it, are matters now occupying the Norwegian authorities.

NORWEGIAN FASHION DESIGNERS WIN IMPORTANT CONTRACT IN EAST EUROPE

The Norwegian fashion designers and retailers, Bik Bok and Poco Loco, have swept aside the iron curtain and obtained a contract to refurbish

clothes styles in Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia. As the first fashion designers in the west, they have entered into a sales agreement with the state-owned Yugoslavian production and distribution company which guarantees the clothes will be sold in the best shops in the best locations.

To begin with, the Yugoslav company will be responsible for producing 25,000 items for the spring season for sale in Yugoslavia. However, the Norwegian designers believe this modest contract will open the way for exciting prospects in an enormous market with almost non-existent competition. The contract was won in competition with the mighty Italian Benetton group, says Bik Bok's Karstein Gjersvik. The clincher was that Bik Bok was willing to locate production in Yugoslavia. In addition to producing items to be sold on its own market, Yugoslavia will produce clothes for Bik Bok's other outlets in the west, Gjersvik says.

Yugoslavians are well regarded as manufacturers because they undertake the entire production process from scratch, including the production of yardage, Mr. Gjersvik says.

KLOSTER ORDERS NEW CRUISE SHIP IN FINLAND

Kloster Cruise strengthened its position as the world's largest cruise shipping company when it recently concluded a contract with the Finnish shipyard, Wartsila, for a new cruise vessel calculated to cost 127 million USD. With capacity for 760 passengers, the new ship will be the most luxurious ever built. The agreement includes options for the building of a further two vessels. Competition for the contract was keen between Wartsila and French and West German yards. The vessel will be operated in Kloster's Royal Viking Line which already operates three vessels in the luxury class in its world-wide cruise service. The company head office is located in San Francisco.

Kloster Cruise ordered a large cruise ship at Wartsila in the summer of last

year. This vessel will be operated by Kloster's Norwegian Caribbean Lines, will cost 128 million USD and have capacity for 1,900 passengers. The vessel will sail in the cruise trade in the Caribbean Sea where Kloster already operates five ships including the S/S 'Norway'. This contract also includes two options.

Royal Viking Line experienced a difficult operational year last year due to the fall in the USD exchange rate, the effects of international terrorism and the nuclear power plant accident at Chernobyl. When this is added to increased sales costs for Norwegian Caribbean Lines, it adds up to a reduction in operational profits for Kloster Cruise from 30 million USD in the first half of 1985 to 13.5 million USD in the first half of last year.

All Kloster ships are now operated under Bahamas flag.

SUPPLY SHIP OPERATORS TO MERGE

Six shipping companies specialising in supply ship operation, all located on the stretch of coast between Oslo and Stavanger, have started negotiations to establish what could result in Norway's largest shipping company in this field.

The merger plan is a result of an analysis carried out by the UK consultants, Petrodata, for the Norwegian Shipowners' Association against the background of the economic crisis in this sector caused by the oil price fall. Petrodata and the Association have concluded that there are too many competing operators on this market, and subsequent talks with shipping companies along the coast have resulted in an agreement that three groups should be established. Of these, the Sorlands group (Oslo to Stavanger) has advanced farthest.

Mr. Bendt Rasmussen of Viking Supply Ships of Kristiansand states that six companies have already started a marketing cooperation and negotiations have begun on merging to form one shipping company. It is hoped that a satisfactory result will be reached in the next few weeks.

Apart from Viking, the group consists of Ugland Shipping and Uglands Rederi, Grimstad, Sigval Bergesen, Stavanger, Offshore Support Services, Oslo and Supply Service, Farsund. Altogether, these companies operate 40 vessels.

At end 1986, over 50 Norwegian ships were in lay-up. At that time, the Norwegian offshore fleet of special vessels consisted of 180 units.

LARGE INVESTMENTS ENVISAGED IN HOTEL CAPACITY IN NORTH NORWAY

The hotel sector in north Norway is riding a wave of optimism. As this year gets into its stride, plans are on hand for investments aggregating 220 million USD in hotel projects located in the three northernmost counties of Norway, ie Nordland, Troms and Finnmark. This will increase hotel capacity by 3,620 beds. In addition to this, the Arctic port of Tromso has plans for chartering a hotel ship if demand for accommodation should make this advisable.

The hotels and large boarding houses in these three counties of north Norway registered over 1 million bed-nights last year. For the country as a whole, the figure was in excess of 11 million, reports the Central Bureau of Statistics.

The optimism is based on a combination of satisfaction with the many planned fairs and conferences on the agenda and a stronger willingness to invest in tourism in north Norway. Recently it was decided to make a study of the importance of increased investment in the North Cape as a tourist attraction. Otherwise, activity

is especially marked in Tromso where tourism has been centralised. A small revolution has been accomplished in this sector and this has not gone unnoticed among investors.

Among the largest hotel projects planned for 1987 is an extension of the SAS-operated hotel in Bodo with 300 beds. A corresponding extension is also planned for another SAS hotel in Tromso where Arctic Centre A/S and Arctic Catering Group also plan to build new premises with an aggregate 600 beds. In Mo i Rana and Mosjoen, new buildings are planned with capacity for 300 beds and 200 beds, respectively. In addition to the planned increase of capacity by 3,620 beds, several hotel owners have extension plans which they prefer to keep confidential.

18 OIL COMPANIES SEEK DRILLING RIGHTS IN BARENTS SEA

When the deadline for applications ran out on 23 January three Norwegian and 15 overseas oil companies had applied for concessions on Norway's five so-called strategic blocks in the Barents Sea. These lie to the east of an area where prospecting has already been carried out.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Energy plans to allocate the blocks in March. Drilling is scheduled to start this year.

The applicant companies are the privately owned Norwegian company Saga, Petroleum, state oil company Statoil, Norsk Hydro, Amerada Hess, Arco, BP, Deminex, Elf, Esso, Agip, Conoco, Shell, Fina, Mobil, Phillips, Texas Eastern, Tenneco, and Total.

Continued on Page 8

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NORWAY
Continued

The Ministry of Petroleum and Energy was satisfied with the interest shown in this round of concessions. There are applications for all the blocks though most of them are concentrated around one or two blocks.

NORSK DATA
INCREASES MARKET
SHARE IN EUROPE

A growing share of Europe's large computer market gave strong impetus to Norsk. Data's increase in operating income and profit last year. The company has increased its market shares on all its foreign markets but mainly in the UK and Denmark. This strong growth came despite the stagnation in demand on the domestic market brought about by the economic situation. Norsk Data has now come into a position where turnover is approximately equally divided between Norway and abroad.

Turnover in Norway increased by 29% to 186 million USD which means that one half of turnover still stems from sales in Norway. This was achieved despite the fact that the computer market in Norway only expanded by 10% last year. the operational margin last year stood at 15.8% which is 1.2% lower than the record year of 1985. However, this illustrates that Norsk Data continues to occupy top position in the international computer industry together with companies like Digital Equipment Corp., Wang and Data General. Own equity share has increased by 35% to 293 million USD. The inflow of orders increased by 29% to a value of 371 million USD. Norsk Data made 800 new appointments last year bringing the workforce up to 3,619 persons at year's end.

Finland

SAARINEN'S SOFAS
IN PRODUCTION
AGAIN

Eliel Saarinen's White chair and Blue chair, which are once again in production, have now been complemented with the tables and the white sofa and blue sofa which Saarinen designed to go with them and which *Adelta Oy* has been manufacturing for some time now.

They are all being made with the permission of the Hvittrask and Cranbrook museums and of Eliel Saarinen's heirs.

The Finnish Company Adelta has acquired world-wide production and sales rights. The furniture is being manufactured in Finland, and often requires intricate workmanship. All the pieces are numbered and bear the Saarinen emblem. Consequently, they are some of the most valued furniture in the world today.

Saarinen's White chair became famous from the Flower Room at Hvittrask, and the Blue chair from Cranbrook, where Saarinen designed it for his wife's atelier.

THE SARPANEVA BOOK
IS READY

After years of intensive work a book has been published which introduces the wide ranging production of the nationally and internationally acclaimed artist **Timo Sarpaneva**.

Sarpaneva's creativity has never known any bounds. It has encompassed glass sculputer, painting, graphics, artistic glass and glassware, ceramics, porcelain, cast iron, stainless steel, silver, textiles, ryijy rugs, light fixtures, books, theatre sets and exhibitions.

Sarpaneva's crowning achievements, both technically and artistically, have often been the pro-

ducts of his technically innovative production methods, which are described for the reader.

The book also contributes to the history of Finnish art, industrial art and industry. At the same time it is itself one of Sarpaneva's works: a brilliant, comprehensive, visual journal which takes the reader on an enchanting journey to the sources of the artist's inspiration: those personal, but nevertheless, universal sentiments and experiences from which his timeless art has emerged.

The visual presentation of the book (direction of photography, lay-out and typography) is the result of cooperation between Sarpaneva and the artist **Marjatta Svennevig**. The text was written by **Kaj Kalin**, an art critic, and a lecturer at both the Museum of Industrial Art and the Academy of Arts' school of art history.

The Finnish edition of the Sarpaneva book will appear at the end of April 1986. It will also be published in English and German editions, which will appear in June 1986. The price is FIM 640. There will also be a numbered and signed gift edition in Finnish, including four Sarpaneva prints, at a price of FIM 1,480. The Sarpaneva book is being published by the Otava publishing company.

THE SHIP OF THE YEAR

The respected American maritime journal *Marine Engineering/Log* has chosen the *Mariella*, which was completed a year ago at the Wartsila Turku Shipyard, as passenger ship of the year.

The *Mariella*, a Viking Line ship, plies between Helsinki and Stockholm. The shipbuilders say that one reason for the prize is the range and comfort of the ships furnishings. This is evident in the different furnishings in the restaurants. There is more about the *Mariella* in the previous issue of this magazine.

The journal has now awarded the prize 50 times. The Turku Shipyard has received it twice before, for tankers. In 1984 Wartsila's Helsinki shipyard was given a similar prize, when the *Song of America* was chosen as the cruise ship of the year.

SEE AND HEAR

The Technical Research Centre of Finland is the first in Europe to have developed a videophone that transmits a live colour picture, primarily for telephone negotiations.

The current price of the device is approximately USD 20,000 - fairly high, but the cost of business negotiations is reduced as the participants are not required to travel. They can carry out the negotiations in their own office.

Installation of the system is easy, as the videophone can be connected with existing telephone networks. Today's telephone may be replaced with a videophone tomorrow.

SCHJERBECK AND
WIRKKALA

Finnish painter **Helene Schjerfbeck** (1862-1946) is the most highly esteemed woman artist in Scandinavia today. A record price was paid for one of her paintings at an auction in Stockholm a year ago. This April her *Sanantuoja* (Messenger) brought another record price, USD 170,000, at the Bukowski auction in Helsinki.

This work, also known by the name *Kurjat* (The Wretched), came back to its home country from Sweden, where it had been since the 1900s. It is considered the most important of Schjerfbeck's early paintings.

A record price was paid at the same auction for a glass vase. When designer **Tapio Wirkkala** (1915-1985) died, the value of his work went up, but surely no-one expected his *Kanttarelli* vase, one in a series made by the artist himself, to fetch as much as USD 30,000. Glassware was popular: Alvar Aalto's *Savoy* vase and Timo Sarpaneva's *Orkidea* vase both fetched thousands of dollars.

MOTOCROSS

Since **Heikki Mikkola** was motocross world champion four times (in 1974, and 1976-78), Finns have not done very well in the sport. But now there is a new generation on the way. Last year the 125 cc champion was **Pekka Vehkonen** of Finland.

This year's first event was held in France. Before the event, bets were on the Finns and Dutch to take the top places. Despite the muddy conditions, the competition went very well for the Finns: a double win in the first heat, and four in the second. Both heats were won by reigning world champion **Pekka Vehkonen**.

Vehkonen and his aides, **Arto Panttila**, **Mika Kouki** and **Ismo Vehkonen** (Pekka's cousin), are all young riders. Time may hold anything in store for them. Although one event does not make a champion, it is good to start with a win. The four riders with the highest number of World Championship points are Finns.

FOR THE YOUNG

In Finland as elsewhere, the 1985 Year of Youth passed rather uneventfully. Something enduring was created, however, when a youth travel centre was opened at the beginning of the year.

During its three-year experimental period, the centre will provide youth with general information about travel, inexpensive accommodation and various events. This information will be conveyed from Finland abroad, and vice versa.

The service centre functions under the *Finnish Youth Hostel Association*, which celebrated its 50th anniversary last year. When the youth hostel movement, started in Germany at the turn of the century, was introduced in Finland in 1935, there were only a few hostels in the country. In fifty years the number has risen to 150, and the network now covers all of Finland.

Youth hostels frequently offer an opportunity for hiking, sports and other leisure-time activities. Classification of hostels began ten years ago, and indicates both the standard of the hostel and the price level. Since the hostels are meant mainly for young people, the prices are low. Others can also stay in the hostels; virtually all have family rooms for 2-4 persons and many can also be used for meetings and courses.

HEAT FOR THE SEA

A 24-hour cruise from Helsinki? Why not. For a holiday, congress, fair or even an art exhibition. And if none of these suits you, order a tailor-made cruise, planned to your own specifications, right down to the schedule.

The Sally Line will be offering 24-hour cruises beginning in mid-May. The vessel is the *Sally Albatross*, a car ferry that has been converted into a cruise ship. Facilities for big functions have been built on the former vehicle decks, so there's plenty of space. And what would be a better venue for a car show than the former vehicle decks of this luxury cruise vessel?

Conference facilities and AV equipment are available on board and there

Continued on Page 9

Finnish Footnotes
continued from Page 5

several ethnic groups in costume carrying colourful cultural banners. In keeping with the theme "Carnival", there were costumed Shumka animals and Romanian Gossiping goats. The Norwegians were represented by a Viking (Verner Steinbru), and four Trolls (volunteers). A gigantic inflated parrot presided over the grounds.

All afternoon stage presentations were given by various ethnic groups: Gilbert Parent, French-Canadian performer; Orient Dance group; Yugoslavian Folk-Dancers; Bavarian Stuben Music; and dances by "Silver-Spur Dancers and others.

A great attraction was the "Sparkstitting" (Norwegian Kick sleigh) demonstrated by Verner Steinbru, giving rides to eager children in turn.

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GATEWAY TO THE WORLD

To many Finns the word 'Finnair' is synonymous with 'blue and white wings', the wings with which Finnair has been flying people to and from Finland for years now. Finnair's new director of information, Seppo Sarlund, thinks about the word Finnair for a while before saying that, for him at any rate, the word means a gateway and a passport to the world. Finland's gateway opens at Helsinki-Vantaa airport, and Finnair is involved in opening it even wider with flights to an increasing number of new destinations.

The direct flights from the USA have been popular for years, not least because Helsinki airport is well placed for transit to the Soviet Union and elsewhere. In the other direction, Finnair flies direct to Seattle and Los Angeles on America's west coast.

Finnair, or Aero as it was then called, started in 1924 by flying across the Gulf of Finland to Tallinn. Flights to Moscow began some 30 years ago. The airline's first destination in the Far East was Tokyo, and flights there began in 1983. There are now two non-stop flights to Tokyo a week, and the flying time is as short as thir-

teen hours. The next destination was Singapore, and the first flights, with a stop-off in Bangkok, took off this year.

In the fierce competition of today airlines continually have to come up with new ways of attracting customers. For the holidaymaker price and safety are the main factors. And for the businessman and others who travel as part of their work there should be special classes, tasty meals, free drinks, and numerous enticing extras. What is Finnair's answer to the competition?

"Quality", replies **Seppo Sarlund**. In his opinion, the three most important musts of an airline are safety, service and price, in that order. Sarlund stresses that anyone travelling Finnair can be assured of safety; the planes are new and in faultless condition. He does not see any reason for investing in jumbo jets, and Finnair has no plans to do so. The company has recently purchased two airbuses, though, which will be used for charter flights.

Finnair handles domestic flights with DC9s, Fokkers and new ATR 42 aircraft.

Finland has a reputation for well organized domestic flights. Here, too, Finnair plays a part, with daily flights to 21 localities in Finland. The most distant is Ivalo, up in the far north of Lapland.

"Our domestic service is excellent by European standards," remarks Sarlund. "In terms of domestic flights we consider ourselves a national aviation company that is involved in regional politics and supports tourism. Last year, the passenger load on domestic flights was up by 7.4 per cent. The main reason for this in-

crease was the introduction to 'red flights' entitling passengers to a 50 per cent reduction in the price of a return ticket on certain flights on certain days. This new service has brought us new customers, and supply always leads to more demand," says Sarlund.

FROM CRADLE TO ROCKING CHAIR

P.O. Korhonen and Kump, are perhaps less known than many of Finland's famous furniture factories. The company was founded in 1954, and concentrates on hospitals, hotels and banks.

New gluing and moulding techniques were introduced at the factory in the 1960s. They were also used satisfactorily in **Kari Asikainen's** Kari line of furnishings, which suits a wide range of interiors.

The range is simple, yet timeless and light. It can be extended continuously - the Pikku Kari line for children is the latest addition. All collections are light and durable. Chairs are stackable, which facilitates storage and moving. The large manual input assures high quality.

HOTEL FACILITIES NEEDED

Most major cities have airport hotels. They are particularly necessary at transit airports, such as Helsinki-Vantaa.

The **Rantasipi Airport Hotel** was built to meet the need for an airport hotel in Vantaa in 1981. At first, there were doubts as to its prospects, but its utilization rate turned out to be so high that an extension was planned a few years later.

The extension was completed this spring. The Rantasipi Airport Hotel is now the third largest hotel in Finland, with 300 rooms. The design is based on the needs of the typical customer; a businessman travelling alone. The conference facilities are modern, and the restaurant, the remodelled Lobby Bar and the night club help entertain guests.

Denmark

En uge på isflage

To grønlandske fangere på isbjørnejagt havde opholdt sig på en isflage i en uge, inden de blev reddet. De drev til havs, da isen brød op. Begge fangere var uskadte, men de mistede 16 hunde under opholdet på isflagen.

Det er Danmark der forurener Østersøen mest

Danmark forurener Østersøen mere end hidtil antaget, viser en rapport, som har været kendt siden januar, men som Miljøstyrelsen ikke har ville udlevere før nu.

Rapporten viser, et Danmark forholdsmaessigt er det land, der udleder mest kvælstof i Østersøen. Og med hensyn til fosfor-udledningen, overgås Danmark kun af Polen.

Sømaend uden beviser

Sømaendenes Forbund gav ikke afgørende oplysninger om amerikanske våben-transporter til udsendingen fra det amerikanske senats undersøgelsesudvalg, som 26. februar officielt kon- sulterede det danske fagfor- bund. Hvis sømaendene har dokumentation for illegal amerikansk våbenhandel, blev den ikke fremlagt på mødet.

Det fremgår af oplysninger fra udsendingen, juridisk chefrådgiver Joel S. Lisker fra

USAs senats slect committee, der er nedsat til at kulegrave Iran-Nicaragua våbenskan- dalen.

— De gav mig ingen papirer eller dokumenter, der kan bevise noget i sagen, siger Joel S. Lisker til Politiken.

Senatsudvalget vil søge sø- maendenes mundtlige oplysn- inger om våbensejladser fra Israel til Iran bekræftet fra uafhængig side, tilføjer han.

Sømaendenes Forbund meddelte, at det ikke vil komme med oplysninger om påståede, ulovlige svenske våbentransporter. Sådanne oplysninger blev ellers lovet af forbundsledelsen tidligere.

Hurtigere S-tog

Dette er fremtidens københavnske S-tog. Bliver bade hurtigere, billigere i in- dkøb og drift og mere passagerventligt end de røde, der kører i dag. DSB og Hovedstadsrådet har nu fremlagt en rapport, der beskriver S-togsmodellens mange fortrin og sætter priser på det nye materiel.

Det vil koste omkring 3,8 mia. kr. at udskifte de 550 S-togsvogne, som når den tekniske pensionsalder i løbet af 1990erne.

I rapporten fastslås det, at kun 48 af den samlede S-togspark på 600 vogne ikke har 'pensioneringsbehov'.

Udover hurtigere accelera- tion og støjsvaghed, vil de nye vogne kunne holdes driftsklre for to tredjedele af de

Continued on Page 10

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Denmark Continued

nuværende omkostninger til drift og vedligeholdelse. Det svarer til en besparelse på 70 mill. kr. om året - eller udgiften til en ny vogn.

8.000 flygtninge mangler boliger

Løbet af 1987 skal der skaffes boliger til ca. 8.000 flygtninge, heraf en væsentlig del i hovedstadsområdet.

Lejernes LO i Hovedstaden til at understrege, at man under ingen omstændigheder kan acceptere, at lejelovents almindelige principper fraviges i et forsøg på at løse det presserende boligproblem.

— 54 pct. af de boligsøgende er mænd, heraf er langt de fleste enlige. Det betyder en øget efterspørgsel efter små, billige og gode boliger — en boligtype, der i forvejen er mangel på i hovedstaden, siger LLO-H's formand Niels Busk.

— Flygtningene skal ikke isoleres i ghettoer. De skal placeres i socialt vel-fungerende boligmiljøer og ikke stuves sammen under byens tage i hastige indrettede klubværelser.

Kvinde-præster som aldrig før

Det er både godt og frugtbart, at vi får flere kvindelige præster. De er

mere på lige fod med deres sognebørn til forskel for mange mandlige præster, der føler sig hævet over menigheden.

Sådan falder ordene fra Rosa Petri, præst i Hørsholm Sogn, og hun hentyder klart til det 'boom' af kvindelige teologi-studerende, som man nu kan tælle sig frem til på falkulteterne i Århus og København. I 1986 udgjorde kvinderne mere end halvdelen af de indskrevne stud. tel. — en tendens, som forventes at fortsætte. Det betyder, at der allerede i 1988 vil blive udklækket flere kvinder end mænd til at beklæde præstembederne i den danske folkekirke. For øjeblikket udgør kvinderne en femtedel af den samlede præstestand.

Hjerneskadere hos unge alkoholikere

Unge alkoholikere risikerer at pådrage sig hjerneskadere, der i alvorlig grad hæmmer deres erhvervsevne. Det påviser overlæge Kirsten Lee i en disputats om følgerne af alkoholmisbrug blandt yngre mænd. Hjerneskadene er både hyppigere og optræder langt tidligere end lever-skader.

Kirsten Lee har undersøgt en gruppe alkoholikere under 50 år på Alko-Ambulatoriet på Forchhammersvej på Frederiksberg. 59 procent viste tegn på middelsvære hjerneskadere, der gjorde dem uegnede til at passe et arbejde. Derimod forekom lever-skader at være en mindre ud-

bredt følge af en tidlig debut som alkoholiker.

Skole vil undervise i turisme

Et spændende forsøg på Varde Handelsskole kan nu føre til, at Danmark får sin første egentlige turistuddannelse. Handelsskolen har sammen med tre af de store danske rejse-arrangører, Tjæreborg Rejser, FDM og Thinggaard Rejser taget initiativet, og det første hold på 25 starter uddannelsen til efteråret.

Rejsebranchen har hidtil fortrinsvis hentet sine medarbejdere fra mange forskellige grene af erhvervslivet, men med den ny uddannelse vil initiativtagerne søge at skabe en tradition for en ensartet uddannelse, som efter deres mening også vil resultere i en bedre service overfor de mange, som kommer i forbindelse med rejse-arrangører.

Dyrere at være dansker bliver det nu

After over et år med stabile priser, vil foråret bringe prisstigninger på næsten alle slags varer. Men ingen vil i dag lægge navn til de prisforhøjelser, alle ved må komme, når de nye overenskomster træder i kraft.

Den 1. marts blev loven om pris- og avancementstop ophævet. Det betyder, at de forretningsdrivende nu har lov til at sætte ikke alene priser, men også deres fortjeneste op. Samtidig udgør de lønforhøjelser, de nye overenskomster påfører forretningerne ekstra udgifter, som skal dækkes ind over priserne.

Men det dalende private forbrug og den voldsomme konkurrence gør, at ingen i dag ønsker at stå frem for at bebude prisforhøjelser.

Sverige snød Danmark

Danmark vil kun få beskeden økonomisk fordel af, at de nordiske lande for første gang er blevet enige om et fordeling-princip for leverancer til fællesnordiske projekter i Den Tredje Verden.

Enigheden er opnået omkring MONAP-programmet i Mozambique, der med et total-budget på 900 mill. kr. er det til dato største nordiske bistandsprojekt i Den Tredje Verden. Danmark har følt sig økonomisk groft snydt af Sverige, hvis industri er løbet med 85 pct. af alle leverancer trods svensk bidrag på 45 pct. af udgifterne.

Sjusk koster 1100-1200 boliger årligt

Byggesjusk nedfører en nedskæring af det sociale byggeri med 1100-1200 lejligheder i år. Regeringen og de radikale har indgået en aftale om opførelse af 6.000 sociale boliger, men i heldigste fald bliver der tale om 4.900.

Det er de mange store byggesjusk affærer i Københavns omegn, der rammer nybyggeriet. Udgifterne til udbedring af byggesjusk tages fra bevillingerne til nybyggeriet.

Svinepriser rasler ned

Forbrugerpriserne på svinekød sætter bundrekord med 41,90 kr. for et kilo nakkekam med spæk. Det er et fald på knap syv kr. på et år. Svineavlernes leveringspriser er faldet 12 gange siden januar 1986, og de mange prisfald skyldes den dårlige afsætningsmuligheder og faldende valutakurser.

Mejerigtig omlægning

Der er i årets begyndelse sket en markant ændring i

sammensætningen af mejeriernes produktion. Det sker for at styrke eksporten. For ikke at producere til EFs overskudslag er produktionen af smør og skummetmælkepulver reduceret, mens osteproduktionen og produktionen af sødmælkepulver er øget kraftigt.

Nej til fogedforbud

Østre Landsret fastslog i går, at der ikke kan nedlægges fogedforbud mod en sammenkædning af overenskomstforligene. Flere afdelinger i SiD og Dansk Metal krævede sammenkædningen standset, fordi den strider mod interne vedtægter i de to forbund. Men landsretten mener — lige som fogedretten — at sammenkædningen er lovlig.

Våbenskib uden havn

Ingen EF-havne vil modtage det tyske våbenskib Gretl, der er chartret af rederiet J. Poulsen i Korsør. Gretl ligger for anker ud for Gibraltar og har netop fået nye forsyninger af mad og brændstof. I lasten ligger en sending mortérgranater, som tilhører den iranske regering.

Hoffmeyer: Vi låner for meget

Nationalbankdirektør Erik Hoffmeyer pointerede fonylig, at Danmarks kreditværdighed hurtigt kan komme under pres på grund af vor store gældsætning.

Den danske nettoudlandsgæld var ved årsskiftet 262 mia kr., eller knap 40 procent af bruttonationalproduktet.

Erik Hoffmeyer anslog, at udlandet i øjeblikket ligger med danske vædipapirer, især obligationer, for ca. 47 mia kr., mens danskere har udenlandske vædipapirer for ca. 35 mia kr.

Interessen for udenlandske investeringer er kølnet betydeligt, efter mange har lidt betydelige tab.

Renten i Danmark ligger i øjeblikket syv procent over renten i f.eks. Vesttyskland, men Hoffmeyer pointerede, at der ikke er udsigt til en lavere rente, før der kommer konkrete tal for forbedringen af betalingsbalancen.

Bil-svindler millionbeløb afsløret på Fyn

Odense Toldvæsen har i et snævert samarbejde med færdselspolitiet og bilinspektionen afsløret svindel med brugte biler til en værdi af knap en million kroner.

De privat-importerede biler fra Vesttyskland fik i Odense tilføjet så mange forbedringer, at der kom en helt ny bil ud af det.

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— Det er ulovligt at bruge reservedele i det omfang, der her er sket, siger kontrolchef.

I stedet for en prangende BMW ma 'bildrømmerne' nu inkassere en betragtelig bøde.

Indvandrerbørn har farlig smitte

Smitsom leverbetændelse optræder langt hyppigere hos indvandrere end hos den danske befolkning i evrigt. For indvandrere fra Palistan og Marokko er hyppigheden 15-20 gange større, viser en undersøgelse fra Statens Seruminstitut.

Langt de fleste af sygdomstilfældene forekommer hos børn under 10 år, og i de fleste tilfælde kommer sygdommens udbrud efter en udenlandsrejse.

Baggrunden for undersøgelsen var, at Skolesundhedstjenesten i København havde observeret et påfaldende stort antal tilfælde af leverbetændelse hos indvandrerbørn, der havde besøgt deres hjemland i skolernes sommerferie.

Smitte med leverbetændelse (hepatitis) kan bl.a ske gennem fødemidler og vand. Når hyppigheden er langt størst hos børn, skyldes det ifølge Statens Seruminstitut, at voksne indvandrere må antages at have været smittet i barndommen, og dermed være immune.

Dyrt og billigt i ny kæmpebutik

Discountbutikkernes succes hos de danske forbrugere har fået de frie købmænd og FDB til at afprøve nye butiksideer. I dag åbner Danmarks to første megamarkeder, som er en blanding af discountbutik, supermarked og specialforretninger.

De to nye forretninger, Høegs Megamarked i Rønnede og Kvickly i Ringsted, vil blive

fulgt med stor interesse af hele dagligvarebranchen, der skønner, at der på det danske marked er plads til omkring 450 discount forretninger. Siden 1979 er der åbnet 300 af slagsen.

Rugbrødet bliver sendt med posten

Postkort og rudekuverter får nu følgeskab af rugbrød og grøntsager. Thisted postkontor har som det første indgået en aftale med den lokale brugsforening om at udbringe varer.

Den utraditionelle aftale er en følge af, at Post- & Telegrafvæsenet med årsskiftet gav postkontorerne friere tøjler til at udnytte ressourcerne, så der kommer flere penge i kassen.

Især i landdistrikterne er det oplagt, at postbudet også tager varer med. han eller hun er alligevel rundt til noget nær samtlige adresser.

Kreditkort kæmper om kunderne

Bankerne og sparekassernes internationale kreditkort, Eurocard, ligner en vinder i kampen om det danske marked. Konkurrenterne Diners Club og American Express har svært ved at leve op til de nye regler. Danske indehavere af de to sidstnævnte kort har nu over 11.000 færre forretninger at bruge deres 'plasticpenge' i.

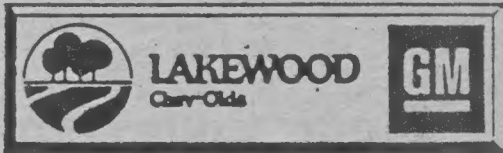
American Express-kortet kan ikke længere bruges af danske indehavere i Danmark. Fra den 1. marts må der nemlig kun opkræves gebyrer hos de handlende, hvis kunden er udlænding, siger Forbrugerombudsmanden.

— Vi vil ikke behandle danske og udenlandske kunder forskelligt. Derfor reducerer vi vores aktiviteter i Danmark, siger dir. Pär Hedlund, American Express.

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Do You Have Memories?

Fellow Scandinavians:

I am trying to put the history of the Scandinavian Centre on video tape (VHS/Beta), and I need your help!

If you have any pictures from the early days of the Centre (8mm movie strips) with some known personalities included - from socials, picnics, Scandapades, or anything else - I would like to copy them on video tape in your home and record your story along with it.

Tapes will be available when completed.

Let's collect some memories together!

And who knows, maybe some day?

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Vasa Lodge Skandia Continued

Lennart Petersson spent a month in Sweden during February to visit his father in hospital. He also helped family members move his parents into different accommodations. His father is now home from hospital.

Get well wishes go out to Herman Nelson who suffered a stroke in February. He is now in the Youville Hospital. Get well wishes also to Keith Lindberg, who has had a back operation, and to Jean Derpack who had an operation to restore her hearing in one ear..

A Petroleum Club Luncheon in January attended by cabinet Ministers, diplomatic corps members and leading businessmen, was of interest to all in the Scandinavian community. Christian Graife, honorary Consul of Finland, was invested as a Knight in the White Rose of Finland. "Sir" Graife has been an Edmonton Consular Corps Member since 1975. His

decoration is similar to our Order of Canada.

The February meeting of the Vasa Sisters was held at the home of Sonja Bergstrom at which time part of the new executive was elected. Evelyn Johnson is our new president with Sonja Bergstrom as Alternate. Tammy Knutson will be the secretary. The March meeting will be at the home of Kay Kerr on March 16th.

Congratulations to Branting Lodge in Calgary on the occasion of their 65th Anniversary on March 21st.

Tentative plans are under way to celebrate Vasa Park's 40th anniversary this summer. Although the actual date is October 2nd, Linnea Lodge, who will coordinate the event, has suggested August 29th as "Appreciation" day.

Belated Happy Anniversary to Dez and Marvis Dezauteis who celebrated their 30th anniversary on Febraury 2nd. Also some "Happy Birthdays" to Violet Watson and June Juffman on Feb 20th, Ken McEvoy and Karen Eliasson on February 22nd, Gwen Ungarian on Feb 7th and to Sonja Sund.

We learned at the March 2nd meeting that Oscar Carlson, formerly of Edmonton and now of Vancouver, has finally been presented with his 50-Year pin. Margaret Lundgren and Oscar and Winnie Pearson of Burnaby visited him at his nursing home to participate.

Tom and Connie Pearson went to Silver Star in Vernon B.C. for a week's skiing on March 8th.

Julie Pearson and Brian Turley, who announced their engagement at Christmas time, have set their wedding date for September 5th.

Those of you who have children eligible for Vasa Camp Week, don't forget it's for the week of July 19 -26th this year.

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